

June 26, 2020

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Temporary Changes to Requirements of Educator Certification Regulations

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted education in RI in various ways. RIDE understands that it may have impacted educators applying for or renewing their certificates this year. We are aware that educators may have had limited access to tests, courses and/or completing professional learning requirements.

On June 16, 2020, action was taken by the Council to grant approval to the Commissioner to make temporary changes to some of the requirements of educator certification regulations. This applies to educators who are either seeking certification in RI, or are renewing certificate(s) expiring in July/August of 2020. Changes will be implemented through the certification office and the application process, and these will remain in effect only until January 1, 2021, to ensure that the changes solely affect those Rhode Island educators impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The chart below is a listing of the certificate types and the COVID-19 Temporary Changes to Requirements of Educator Certification Regulations.

****Educators impacted by these changes must submit a paper application to the certification office****

Seeking: Certificate Type	Requirement(s) Not Met by Educator	Approved Action
First Issuances		
Full Initial certificate in all areas (except CTE areas)	Has not met test requirements	May apply for a Preliminary Temporary Initial, allowing the educator one year to take and pass RI required tests. <i>This does not impact educators who hold valid certificates in MA and CT due to RI Interstate Flexibility</i>
Full Initial certificate in any CTE area	Has met all CTE program or credential review requirements except for NOCTI and/or PLT	May apply for the Preliminary Temporary Initial certificate, allowing the educator one year to take and pass NOCTI and/or PLT.
Preliminary CTE 3 Year certificate	Has met all prerequisite degree and experience requirements, except NOCTI	May apply for a Preliminary CTE 3 Year certificate, but will be issued as Preliminary Temporary Initial, with an expiration date of July 31, 2021. Upon confirmation of an educator's passing score, RIDE will then update the educator's file to a 3 year preliminary CTE at no cost to the educator. When the NOCTI has been taken and passed, the candidate's certificate will be converted to the Preliminary CTE 3 Year certificate, and extended to the full certificate cycle.

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Seeking: Certificate Type	Requirement(s) Not Met by Educator	Approved Action
Preliminary Expert Residency certificate	Has not met test requirements	May apply for the Preliminary Expert Residency certificate, allowing the educator one year to take and pass RI required tests.
Reinstatement		
Reinstatement of expired certificate(s) less than 10 years (2011 or later)	Has not met test requirements	May apply for Preliminary Temporary Initial, allowing the educator one year to take and pass RI required tests.
Renewal		
Full Initial or Professional Certificates	Has not met PLU requirements	May apply for renewal or progression by August 31, 2020, and submit a cover letter or statement of COVID-19 related hardship in completing the required PLUs (General Application Form - Section B-5). Certificates will be renewed with an expiration date of Dec 1, 2020. When PLU requirements have been met, the certificate will be extended for the remaining time of the certificate cycle.
Preliminary CTE 4 Year (renewed from the Preliminary CTE 3 Year)	Has not met coursework requirements	May renew as a Preliminary CTE (4 year) certificate, with an expiration date of July 31, 2021. When the 2020 renewal requirements have been met, the certificate will be extended for the remaining time of the certificate cycle of 4 years.
Preliminary Emergency (First Renewal)	Has not met test and/or credential review plan of study, or program acceptance letter	With LEA approval, may renew as a Preliminary Emergency certificate, with evidence of registration of content test, credential review plan of study, or approved program.
Preliminary Emergency (Second or Third Renewal)	Has not met test and/or coursework requirements as outlined in plan of study or approved program	With LEA approval, may renew as a Preliminary Emergency certificate, with evidence of registration of registration of content test requirements and/or coursework.
Preliminary Expert Residency (First Renewal)	Has not met CRCI plan of study, letter of acceptance into program, or coursework requirements	May renew as a Preliminary Expert Residency allowing educator one year to meet requirements.
Preliminary Expert Residency (Second and Subsequent Renewals)	Has not met coursework requirements as outlined in plan of study or approved program	May renew as a Preliminary Expert Residency allowing educator one year to meet requirements.
Preliminary Temporary Initial **specific to certificates expiring July/Aug 2020**	Has not met test requirements	May renew as a Temporary Initial, allowing the educator one year to take and pass RI required tests.

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